



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Inventor: DONALD W. BRYAN

Serial No. 08/707,991

) Art Unit
3309

Filed: 11 March 1996

For: SPINAL FIXATION
APPARATUS AND METHOD

Examiner: GUY TUCKER

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

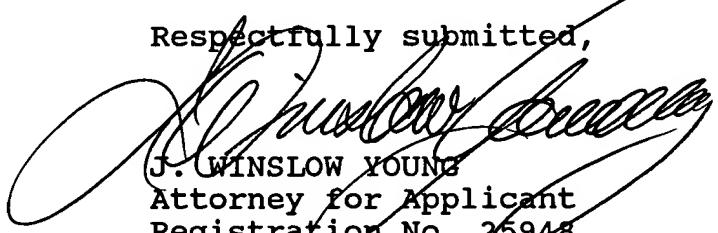
Sir:

Enclosed herewith is an Amendment in the matter of the above-identified patent application. One additional independent claim has been added. Thirty claims were previously submitted of which one has been cancelled leaving twenty-eight as the total number of claims pending in this application. One defendant claim has been changed to an independent claim requiring the payment of \$40.00. This payment is included in Check No. 61-651001996 in the amount of \$235.00 to cover the above fee of \$40.00 and the two month extension fee of \$195.00.

In the event any additional fees are required, please notify the undersigned and said fees will be promptly paid.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Box Fee Amendments (Pats), Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on 28 July 1997.

Respectfully submitted,


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JWY:my
Docket: 261b

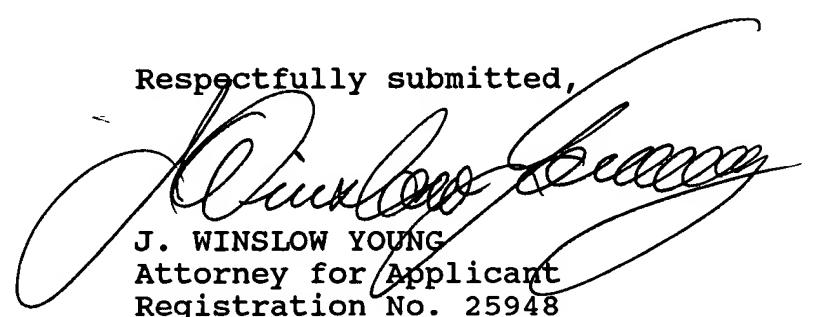
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME responsive to the communication from the Examiner in charge of the patent application Serial No. 08/707,991 for SPINAL FIXATION APPARATUS AND METHOD in the name of Donald W. Bryan is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Dated this 28th day of July 1997.

Respectfully submitted,


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